

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for facilitating the replacement of discrete print media path components within a printing device, each discrete print media path component having a service

5 life measured in number of uses, comprising:

monitoring a plurality of discrete print media path components of said printing device; and

recording the number of individual uses of said plurality of discrete print media path components.

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2. The method of claim 1, further comprising comparing the number of times at least one discrete component has been used with the service life of said discrete component.

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3. The method of claim 2, further comprising replacing at least one discrete component based on the results of said comparing.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein said monitoring comprises:

receiving digital input in the form of a print job including page identifiers;

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counting said page identifiers; and

determining the number of individual uses of said discrete paper path

components for said print job based on said counted page identifiers.

5. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

comparing the number of times each discrete component has been used with
the service life of each discrete component; and
replacing only the discrete components that have been used a number of times
5 at least equal to said service life of the discrete component.

6. The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving a request for information,
wherein said providing is performed in response to said request.

10 7. The method of claim 1, further comprising providing said number of times at least
one discrete component has been used.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein said providing is performed when at least one
discrete component has been used a number of times at least equal to said service life
15 of the discrete component.

9. The method of claim 7, further comprising connecting the printing device to a
communications network connected to a remote information handling system, wherein
said providing is performed over a communications network.

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10. The method of claim 9, wherein the printing device is located at a user site, and
wherein said remote information handling system is located at said user site.

11. The method of claim 9, wherein the printing device is located at a user site, and wherein said remote information handling system is located away from the user site.

12. The method of claim 9, wherein said communications network is a local area
5 network.

13. The method of claim 9, further comprising receiving a request from said remote information handling system to provide said number of times at least one discrete component has been used.
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14. The method of claim 9, wherein said providing is performed at substantially fixed time intervals.

15. The method of claim 9, further comprising transmitting from said remote information handling system a request for at least one replacement component.
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16. A method for facilitating the replacement of discrete print media path components within a printing device, each discrete print media path component having a service life measured in number of uses, comprising:

20 monitoring the discrete print media path components of said printing device;
recording the number of individual uses of the discrete print media path components;
providing said number of times the discrete print media path components have been used;

comparing the number of times each discrete print media path component has
been used with the service life of each discrete print media path
component;

replacing only said discrete print media path components that have been used a
5 number of times at least equal to said service life of said discrete print
media path component.

17. The method of claim 16, further comprising:

connecting the printing device to a communications network, and

10 providing a user with data over communications network, wherein said

providing comprises transmitting said number of times at least one
discrete print media path component has been used to a remote
information handling system.